



TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Memo To: Board of Selectmen
From: Blythe C. Robinson, Town Manager
Date: February 12, 2016
Re: Town Manager's Weekly Report

Warrants:

- Payroll: \$ 83,375.67
- Expense Warrant: \$221,590.87

For Your Information/Follow Up:

- We continue to address the double telephone pole issue and are focusing on Main Street. National Grid has reviewed the locations in that area and notes that utilities need to be moved by Verizon and by the Town (fire alarm wiring). We will need to rent a bucket truck for a day or two in order to get up on the poles in question to take care of this work. Once that is done we'll notify National Grid and urge them to have Verizon perform their work and then take the poles down.
- The Planning Board met this week and continued discussion on approval of the site plan for a new gravel parking lot adjacent to the upper field at Kiwanis Beach. Some further questions were raised and this was tabled until their February 23rd meeting.
- The Men's Club has asked for permission to stage a fundraiser they are calling the "Ice-Out Challenge". Modelled after a similar program in Grafton they will be locating a snowman on Pratt Pond and inviting residents to make a donation and guess when the ice will be thin enough that the snowman falls through. They are hoping this will be a good fundraiser for their various community programs. It will likely start next week.
- We held an Insurance Advisory Committee meeting this week to review the rate increase for health insurance for next year, which will be 12.8% from MIIA. This increase is driven by our high loss ratio and the overall increasing costs of medical and prescription drug trend. We are seeing this occurring with our neighbors, as both our school districts anticipate increases of 10- 11%. The Committee reviewed plan design changes that include deductibles, and have asked that I obtain quotes from other carriers for comparison purposes. It is not a topic anyone enjoys, but I'm confident we'll make a good decision when all the information is gathered.
- I had a follow up meeting with our financial advisor this week to review financing options for our larger capital projects and pieces of equipment. As you recall, there will be a couple of major debt exclusions coming to an end in the next couple years and thus possibly an opportunity to address other capital needs in town without an increase in the tax rate. We are set to meet again with the Treasurer/Collector in two weeks.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Kenneth E. Picard, Chairman
James A. Brochu
Robert J. Fleming

TOWN MANAGER
Blythe C. Robinson
One Main Street • Suite 1 • Upton, MA 01568
T: 508.529.6901 • F: 508.529.1010

- On Tuesday next week Mr. Roy and I will be attending a presentation in Worcester regarding the State's "Complete Streets" program. We look forward to learning more about this and whether the Town should consider adopting this standard, as well as whether there are funds available to help us do so.
- Please note that Monday, February 15th is President's Day and Town Hall will be closed accordingly.